From the desk of

ERIC P. NEWMAN

11/17/04 Spoke to Henry Feldt at 5:45 PM as he had requested by email. He said he had received from Frank, Steve, #6 + Newman. He told me he thought [illegible] from Steve [illegible] Secret Service [illegible] already [illegible] knew about it and he [illegible] the problem and [illegible] Frank [illegible] Steve [illegible] data. [illegible]

From the desk of
ERIC P. NEWMAN

December 28, 1964

United States Secret Service
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

About November 17, 1964 there was delivered to an agent of your Cleveland Office by George J. Fuld, 469 Sandhurst Road, Akron, Ohio, 44313, three (3) different specimens of 1853 $20 U.S.Assay Office gold coins. These were some of a larger number of these coins which had been assembled for study by a group of numismatists consisting of Dr.James Sloss, 1435 Third Street, Beaver, Pennsylvania, George J. Fuld, John J. Pittman, Abe Kosoff, and this organization.

Mr. Fuld turned these coins over to the Secret Service without any authority from the owners of the coins or from the Study Group. He did this when he was highly disturbed and a day or so prior to his hospitalization for mental illness. None of the coins belonged to Mr. Fuld. The coin with the reverse die breaks through the lettering, which coin is now in your custody, belongs to the writer, personally. The ownership of the others can be obtained readily. The three coins received by you were in Mr. Fuld's possession for X-ray tests and to be specially photographed.

We realize that you may have been placed in an unusual position. The group already has assembled much data from the study of the 1853 U. S. $20 Assay Office gold coins and its further studies of these coins is now complicated by the situation. If you determine that you are obliged to study them, or if you wish to study them, the group would like to be so advised. If, in your study, you wish to work with or receive information from the group or any of its members we feel that such cooperation would be available. If you do not care to study the coins

December 28, 1964

United States Secret Service
Washington, D.C.

it would be appreciated if you would return them (1) to any member of the group; (2) to Mr. Fuld, if he is well at that time, or (3) to the owners.

The Study Group feels that it has a responsibility for the coins and wishes to have them returned as promptly as is reasonable after your position is determined or after your study of them is completed.

We are sure you realize that nothing should be done with these coins which will scratch, mar, or injure them in the slightest way, such as cleaning, sampling, chemical testing, spark analysis, and rough handling, because the owners consider them quite rare in such choice condition.

Would you be kind enough to let us hear from you as promptly as you can arrange it.

Very truly yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

By_____
Eric P. Newman

EPN/atb

File No. CO-1-13601

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

January 11, 1965

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

Reference is made to your letter of December 28, 1964, concerning three 1853 $20 United States Assay Office gold coins which were delivered to our Cleveland office for authentication purposes by Mr. George J. Fuld.

This Service will take no action on Mr. Fuld's request inasmuch as the Office of the General Counsel, Treasury Department, has expressed the opinion that coins of this issue do not constitute obligations of the United States government, and, accordingly, this Service has no authority to investigate matters pertaining to alleged counterfeiting of these pieces.

The coins are being returned to our Cleveland office for delivery to Mr. Fuld.

Very truly yours,

James J. Rowley

James J. Rowley
Chief

February 23, 1965

Mr. James J. Rowley
United States Secret Service
Treasury Department
Washington, D.C. 20220

Your File No. CO-1-13601

Dear Mr.Rowley:

In your letter to me of January 11, 1965 you indicated that the three 1853 $20 U.S.Assay Office gold coins in question were being returned to your Cleveland office for delivery to Mr.George J.Fuld. I recently checked with Mr. Fuld and found that he had not received them. He plans to turn them over to us as soon as he receives them from you. Would you be kind enough to expedite the return of these coins if it is not already in process.

If, in the meantime, the coins have been studied by your office, you might wish to give our group investigating this matter the benefit of any data you might have assembled.

We will appreciate your continued cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

DPH/atb

cc:
Dr. James Bloss

January 15, 1965

Messrs.
James C. Sloss
John J. Pittman
A. Kosoff
George Fuld

Gentlemen:

The General Counsel of the Treasury Department has given his opinion that the United States Assay Office Gold Coins are not obligations of the United States Government and, therefore, the Secret Service has no authority to investigate matters concerning such pieces.

The coins delivered to the Secret Service are being returned.

Very truly yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

July 23, 1965

Admiral John M. Hanley
United States Embassy
Paris, France

Dear Admiral Hanley:

I just had a nice talk with Matt Rothert who was passing through St. Louis and he told me to give you his best regards as well as Mr.Klein's.

Matt talked to me about the forgery problems which were discussed at the Paris Convention. Mr. Bourgey had asked me to come to the conference but I am not a "professional numismatist" and did not attend. However, I have done considerable work in exposing counterfeiting and forgery of scarce and rare coins and paper money,most of which has been published in The Numismatist, relating to America.

When I was in England, last summer,I had extensive discussions with both theRoyal Mint and Scotland Yard and was, unfortunately, unable to get certain information I requested from some of the English coin dealers who had critical information.

I am working on certain forgery problems now and the thought occurred to me that I might be able to see you on Saturday, August 21,1965, during my changing planes in Paris. I am scheduled to arrive at 7:30 A. M. and depart at 3:40 P. M. I hope to come into town and I wonder whether you might have a few moments to talk to me as I am convinced that the forgery of rare coins, for collectors, is getting completely out of hand.

Some of the difficulty stems from the fact that the United States Secret Service is unwilling to do any work on coins which are not strictly United States Mint issues and I recently had a United States Assay Office 1853 $20 gold piece returned to me by the Secret Service indicating they had no jurisdiction.

My forgery investigation work is devoted entirely to die struck pieces.

Would you let me hear from you as to whether you care to meet with me.

Sincerely yours,

Eric P. Newman
P.O.Box 14020
St.Louis, Missouri, 63178
U.S.A.

EPN/a tb

FILE NO.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

1-23-712.0

American Embassy
Paris, France

Mr. Eric P. Newman
P. O. Box 14020
St. Louis, Missouri, 63178
U. S. A.

July 30, 1965

Dear Mr. Newman:

I have your letter of July 23, 1965, in which you indicate you will stopover in Paris for a few hours on Saturday, August 21, 1965.

At this time I plan to be in Paris on that date and would be pleased to see you if we can arrange a meeting at some convenient time and place. I would assume you could be in the city during the hours of 9 A.M. to 2 P.M.

I suggest you telephone me at my home between 8:30 A.M. and 9 A.M. at Laborde 01-76. We can then perhaps arrange a meeting. If there is any change in your plans, please advise me as I have other commitments for later on that day.

Very truly yours,

John H. Hanly
Special Agent in Charge
and Attaché

Keep Freedom in Your Future With U.S. Savings Bonds

August 4, 1965

Mr. John E. Manley
American Embassy
Paris, France

Dear Mr. Manley:

Thank you, very much, for your letter of June 30, 1965.

I will, definitely, telephone you as soon as I arrive in Paris on August 21, 1965 and we will arrange a convenient meeting point. My plane arrives at 7:30 A. M., if it is on time. If the plane is late and I am unable to call you until after 9 A.M. would you be kind enough to leave a message at your residance as to where you can be reached.

In the July-September, 1965 issue of COINS AND MEDALS, an English magazine, there is, on page 11, an advertisement by L. A. Kaitcer, 89 Dublin Road, Belfast, offering for sale restrikes of United States $2½ and $1 gold pieces. I presume these are counterfeits and wonder if you have obtained any of these particular pieces for examination. Perhaps these are left over from the forgeries made a few years ago in Europe but it is certainly audacious for a dealer to advertise them, publicly, and even more audacious for a magazine to accept advertising of that nature. I am trying to obtain specimens of them.

My wife will be at the Hotel Meurice, in Paris, August 18-21 and we will both leave together on the afternoon of August 21.

The matters I want to talk to you about are seperate from the foregoing.

Sincerely yours,

Eric P. Newman
P.O. Box 14020
St. Louis, Missouri 63178
U.S.A.

E N/stb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

June 14, 1967

Mr. James J. Rowley, Director
Secret Service
Room 239--1800 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rowley:

We would like to introduce ourselves as an organization which has been engaged in numismatic research. The writer has prepared and had published many books and articles on American coinage and paper currency, a reasonable number on the counterfeiting and forgery of uncurrent pieces made for collectors. I was Chairman of the United States Assay Commission for 1967 and am a member of the Council of the American Numismatic Society, in New York.

At the meeting of the International Numismatic Congress, in Copenhagen, beginning August 28, 1967, I was asked to make a talk and I selected as my subject "Perfection in Forgeries". My purpose is to shock the numismatists into action with respect to the flood of forgeries of scarce coins which have constantly appeared in recent years. I thought it would be worth while for me to learn from your organization such facts as you might be willing to tell me and also to learn what matters you feel I should not disclose. My particular emphasis will be only on coins made with forged dies and only with respect to forged dies produced directly or indirectly from the coins themselves.

Several years ago I offered to exchange ideas with your Mr. Rowley at the time I met him in Paris. We were previously in correspondence with your organization in connection with matters concerning the 1853 $20 U.S.Assay Office of Gold coinage.

A discussion may be mutually beneficial and I am wondering if this is possible.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/rtb